The Belief in Allah's Books (the Scriptures)

Believing in the Books Allah revealed to His Prophets and Messengers is one pillar of *iman*. Allah, Who revealed the Qur'an to Muhammad (peace be unto him) had revealed other books to other Messengers who came before him. There are Books mentioned in the Qur'an and Books that were not. The Books mentioned are:

1. The Torah, which was revealed to Moses (may peace be upon him). <<***Verily We did send down the Torah, therein was guidance and light, by it the Prophets who submitted themselves to the will of Allah (Muslims), judged the Jews. And the Rabbis and the priests (too judged the Jews by the Torah after those Prophets) for to them was entrusted the protection of Allah's Book, and they were witnesses thereto.***>> (5:44)
2. The Bible, which was revealed to Jesus (may peace be upon him). <<***We sent Jesus, the son of Mary, confirming the Torah that had come before him and We gave him the Gospel, in which was guidance and light and confirmation of the Torah that had come before it, and a guidance and admonition for the pious.***>> (5:46)
3. David's Psalms, which were revealed to David (may peace be upon him).: << ***We have preferred some of the Prophets above the others, and to David We gave the Psalms.***>> (17:55)
4. The Scriptures, which were revealed to Moses and Abraham (may peace be upon them). <<***Or has he not been informed of what is in the Scripture of Moses; and Abraham, who fulfilled his pledge? That no bearer of burdens can bear the burden of another, and that mankind shall have only what he has striven for; and that his striving shall soon be seen; then he***

will be recompensed for it with the fullest recompense; and to your Lord is the final return.>> (53:36 to 42) <<***Prosperous is he who purifies himself, and glorifies the Name of his Lord and the prays. Yet you prefer this life while the hereafter is better and everlasting. Surely all this is written in the earlier scriptures of Abraham and Moses.***>> (87:14 to 19)

Allah did not refer to the other Scriptures revealed to the other Messengers, but He informed us that each Messenger was sent with a discriminating message to convey: <<***Mankind were one community and Allah sent Prophets with glad tidings and warnings, and with them He sent the Scripture in truth to judge between people in matters wherein they differed.***>> (2:213) Therefore, we should believe in those anonymous Scriptures. At the same time we should not claim any book to be revealed from Allah unless it is cited specifically in the Qur'an.

It is incumbent upon Muslims to believe that the Scriptures came to guide people to what is right and to the Oneness of Allah as the only God, Lord of creation, and Possessor of divine names and attributes. If there existed in these messages something that contradicted these principles, it would indicate a man-made change or addition. <<***Verily, We did send down the Torah, therein was guidance and light.***>> (5:44) <<***We sent Jesus, the son of Mary, confirming the Torah that had come before him, and We gave him the Gospel, in which was guidance and light, and confirmation of the Torah that had come before, as a guidance and admonition for the pious.***>> (5:46)

We should believe that the Qur'an is the last Book revealed from Allah the Most High, and that Allah distinguished it from the previous scriptures in the following manner:

1. It contains all the divine teachings. It also supported the ideas already established in the previous scriptures such as conceding the Oneness of Allah, and worshipping and obeying Him. The Qur'an is also a comprehensive Book for all the good deeds and good manners that were scattered in the previous scriptures. It also functions to expurgate whatever changes or corruption happened to earlier Scriptures: <<***And We have sent down to you the Book (Qur'an) in truth, confirming the Scripture that came before it and trustworthy in highness and a witness over it***.>> (5:48)

The Qur'an introduced a general comprehensive law (*sharia*) for all mankind which, if followed, provides consolation in both this life and the hereafter. This law invalidates all previous laws employed by earlier peoples as it contained final judgements to suit all times and places.

2. The Qur'an is the only divine Book which Allah promises to keep and preserve: <<***Verily! We: It is We Who have sent down the Qur'an, and We will guard it (from corruption).***>> (15:9) <<***Verily those who disbelieved in this reminder (i.e. the Qur'an) when it came to them (shall receive the punishment). And verily, it is an honourable respected Book. Falsehood cannot come to it from before it or from behind it (it is) sent down by the All-Wise, Worthy of all praise.***>> (41:41-42) This merit is related to another one. The Qur'an was revealed to reach the whole of humanity and not a certain people like the earlier Scriptures. Therefore, Allah preserves it from corruption at the hands of people in order to provide right guidance till the Day of Judgment.

The other Scriptures were directed to certain peoples. Each Scripture addressed a certain nation. This means that those Scriptures, though having the same fundamentals, contained

judgements and laws very particular to certain times and localities. <<***We have prescribed a law and a clear way.***>> (5.48)

This is why Allah did not guarantee to preserve them over the ages like the Qur'an, but informed us about the changes that occurred in them. As for the Jews and how they changed the Torah: <<***Do you (faithful believers) covet that they will believe in your religion in spite of the fact that a party of them (Jewish rabbis) used to hear the Word of Allah (Torah), then they used to change it knowingly after they understood it?***>> (2:75) <<***Among those who are Jews, there are some who displace words from (their) right places and say: 'We hear your word and disobey,' and 'Hear and let you hear nothing.'***>> (4:46) And as for the Christians and the way they distorted the Bible: ***And from those who call themselves Christians; We took their covenant, but they have abandoned a good part of the Message that was sent to them. So We planted amongst them enmity and hatred until the Day of Resurrection, and Allah will inform them of what they used to do. O people of the Scripture (Jews and Christians)! Now has come to you Our Messenger explaining to you much of that which you used to hide from the Scripture and passing over much. Indeed there has come to you from Allah a light and a plain Book (The Qur'an).***>> (5:14-15)

Among the heretic inventions that the Jews and Christians added to their religion is the assumption proposed by the Jews that Ezra is the son of the Almighty Allah and the assumption proposed by the Christians that Jesus is the son of Allah: <<***And the Jews say: Ezra is the son of Allah, and the Christians say: Messiah is the son of Allah. That is a saying from their mouths. They imitate the saying of the disbelievers of old. Curse be on them, how they are deluded from the truth.***>> (9:30) The Qur'an corrected these

intentional errors by stressing the fact that Allah was too exalted to have had a son: <<***Say: He is Allah, the One and Only-The Eternal Cause of all being. He begets not, not was begotten. And there is none comparable to Him.***>> (112:all)

The Qur'an also stated that all Messengers were human, qualified with certain characteristics to be able to receive revelation and convey it to people. Allah said in the Qur'an addressing His Prophet Muhammad (peace be unto him): <<***Say: I am only a man like you. It has been inspired to me that your God is one God.***>> *(18:110)*

Another change made by the Christians in their religion was, as Allah stated in the Qur'an, concerning the concept of prophethood. Some regarded Jesus, son of Mary, as a god, others assumed the concept of trinity. <<***Surely they have disbelieved who say: Allah is the Messiah, the son of Mary.***>> (5:72) << ***Surely they have disbelieved who say: Allah is the third in a trinity. For there is no god except Allah***>> (5:73) The Qur'an referred to their heresy and illuminated the true fact about Jesus and his mother: <<***The Messiah (Jesus), son of Mary, was no more than a Messenger; many were the Messengers that have passed away before him. His mother was righteous. They both ate food. Behold! How We make Our Signs clear to them, and again behold! How they are perverted.***>> (5:75)

It is irrefutable that the Qur'an is the only Book today worthy of belonging to the Creator. Such a fact can be supported by evidences other than the distortions that occurred in the other Books.

Among such evidences:

1. The original copies of the Scriptures revealed before the Qur'an have been lost, and what people have now are but translations. Whereas contrarily, the Qur'an is still preserved with its *surahs*, *ayahs*, and grammatical inflections in the same way the Angel Gabriel recited them to Muhammad (peace be unto him), and he, in turn, recited them to his companions (may Allah be pleased with them).[1]

2. The other Scriptures are a mixture of Allah's words and man's words, which contain interpretations, history, the stories of the prophets and their disciples, and the deductions made by scholars. No one can distinguish Allah's words from those of the people's. The Qur'an is entirely the word of Allah; it does not include what the Prophet (peace be unto him) or the companions said.[2] Abdul Wafa Ali Ibn 'Uqeil said:

    > If you want to be sure that the Qur'an is not the Prophet's words but words revealed to him, compare it to the Prophet's words and observe the difference between the two styles. There will not be one word that resembles the words of the Qur'an. One of the miracles of Qur'an is that none of its verses were derived from any earlier text, although people used to quote from another; for example Al-Buhtury (a poet) was quoted by Al-Mutanabbi (another poet)[3]

3. Those Scriptures were not proven, by any reliable document, to belong to the Messenger. For example, the Scriptures of the Old Testament known as the Torah, were written down many centuries after the death of Moses (may peace be upon him).

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[1] Al Mawdudi, *The Principles of Islam*, p 77.
[2] Al Mawdudi, *The Principles of Islam*, p 77.
[3] *Knowing the Conditions of the Prophet*, vol.1, p 270.

Muhammad Farid Wagdy quoted from La Ross Encyclopaedia that:

> After intense studies in archaeology, history, and ancient languages, modern science, and German criticism, it was proved that the Torah was not written by Moses (may peace be upon him), but by anonymous rabbis one after the other. They depended on some stories they had heard before Babylon was captured. Furthermore, some scholars affirmed that the five Scriptures were not all Israelite, they contained stories, symbols, and references.[1]

The Glorious Qur`an is the only Book decisively proved to belong to the Prophet on whom it was revealed. i.e. Muhammad (peace be unto him). This Book was passed down successively over the ages with its *surahs* and *ayahs* intact and in the order they were revealed. Unquestionably, the Qur`an we are reciting now is the Qur`an revealed by Allah to His noble Prophet.[2]

4. Another evidence for the changes taken place in those Scriptures is that they have various copies contradicting in their opinions.[3]

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[1] Nadim al-Mullah. *The Islamic Beliefs*, p 57.

[2] Al-Mawdudi. *The Principles of Islam*. p 78.

[3] See Sayed Sabiq *The Islamic Beliefs*. p 168 in which he said:

It is sufficient to prove the changes that happened in the available Bibles today stem from the fact that there were four Bibles chosen from about seventy. These Bibles concerned the life of Jesus (may peace be upon him). Their authors are known and they have their names written on them. Some Christian critics have decided that the beliefs cited in those Bibles represent the opinions of Paul rather than the other disciples even nearest to Jesus. A copy of the Barnaba Bible was found in a prince's palace in Paris. It was translated into Arabic and printed by al-Manar Printing House. It is quite different from the other Bibles.

5. Another clear evidence the previous Scriptures were distorted is that of the corrupt beliefs and inaccurate images they contain about Allah, glorified be Him, and about His noble Messengers (may peace be upon them). In those Books Allah was likened to man, and the Prophets were described in a way incongruous with their honourable status and flawless characters.[1]

Having proved the distortion and the changes in the previous Books, we have to believe that they were originally revealed from Allah on His Messengers for the same purpose of the Qur'an, but we should not believe in the their present contents except for what was referred to in the Qur'an. On the other hand, we should believe the Qur'an is the pure word of Allah and that it is the right Book and that all its words have been preserved. Therefore, all it commands should be followed, and all it forbids should be avoided; all its statements should be believed and all that contradicts it should be renounced.

[1] See Sayed Sabiq, *The Islamic Beliefs*, p 167, in which he gave examples for this in the Torah. Genesis, in the Bible, mentioned: The Lord said He was grieved because He created mankind. It was also said that Abraham was a liar. Lot committed fornication with his two daughters, Aaron invited the children of Israel to worship the calf, David committed fornication, and Solomon worshipped statues to satisfy his wife. Is there any more evidence for the distortion than this?